

Opera Season Opens Monday In Auditorium

By J. L. Wallis

A PERUSAL of the exchanges from Eastern cities where the organizations have appeared this season is convincing that the opera to be given during the week's engagement of the San Carlo Grand Opera company at the Auditorium, beginning tomorrow night, will surpass, in significance of production and artistic presentation, anything the company has yet attempted here.

The public response to the company's offerings has, furthermore, so increased that Signor Gallo sent word ahead that there would be no increase in prices in Portland, regardless of the heavy cost of grand opera production under present day conditions.

The San Carlo, which to all who keep in touch with musical affairs has won enduring fame, enjoys a place of graceful esteem in the world of musical advancement and stands pre-eminently as a positive guarantee to lovers who fully appreciate the combination of quality and quantity. The organization has revolutionized grand opera as a practical diversion.

The records established for attendance and receipts are matters of American musical history and the local musical constituency may be right heartily congratulated upon having been included in the present season's itinerary of the company when many important music centers, because of the fearfulness of such organizations now doing business in this country, are left entirely off the grand opera map. The names of the company principals speak eloquently of the aim of the San Carlo management to make the 1919-20 tour the most interesting of its unique and successful career, and this makes the week of song at the Auditorium one of exceptional attractiveness.

"Rigoletto," selected for the inaugural of the week, tomorrow night, is rather remarkable among grand operas from the fact that there is comparatively little work for the chorus, especially the feminine section. The first act brings forward the entire chorus forces, however. It abounds in beautiful concerted numbers. And, largely because of the comparative scarcity of choral passages, the list of principals called for is a long one—all voices having parts with not only fine vocal scores, but opportunity for dramatic acting as well. It should form an ideal opening for what promises to be a week of unusual musical worth. The cast will bring forward Quena, Mario, the coloratura, whose "Mimi," "Juliet" and "Gilda" have won vast audiences at the city's theatre last season. The young songbird will have three hearings during the week, singing on Wednesday afternoon her double role of Olympia and Antonia, "Tales of Hoffmann," and Lucia on Friday night.

The coming of Bettina Freeman, new dramatic soprano of the organization, following triumphs by the artist at the Royal Opera, London, and the Sir Thomas Beecham's company, at His Majesty's in the English metropolis, has awakened something beyond measurable anticipation, for she is claimed by Signor Gallo as a superb "Aida," "Santuzza" and "Leonora," in all of which roles Portland opera goes, for the first time, will hear her.

Rosina Zotti, an Italian lyric star from the Coliseo, Buenos Ayres, is to be the "Butterfly" of the week, her double appearances being that of "Nedda" in the Leoncavallo favorite, "Pagliacci," and "Sofia Charlotto," the other lyric artist, will appear on Saturday afternoon in "Carmen," with the favorite.

JASCHA HEIFETZ, noted violinist, who will be heard in Portland for the first time next Wednesday night at the Heilig, under direction of Steers & Coman. Heifetz is heralded as probably the greatest living artist.



Stella DeMette, in the title part of the Bizet opera.

Interest naturally centers in the several new artists, including Mme. Ada Paggi, a leading contralto, late of the Teatro Nacional, Havana, and said to possess a splendid voice coupled with unusual histrionic ability. She has been honored with a place in tomorrow night's "Rigoletto" cast, which will afford first nighters their initial opportunity to hear Signor Vincente Balles, the much heralded Spanish baritone, who will have the title role. A brilliant all-star night of great song is promised. Salazar, always a deep favorite here, sings on Tuesday evening his famous role of Radames in "Aida," again on Thursday evening as "Carmen," and on Saturday evening as "Manrico." Signor Mario Valle, new Italian baritone, will be the Spaniard in Tuesday evening's "Aida" cast, and on Wednesday night as "Sharpless" in the Puccini opera, "Butterfly."

The department of tenors of the San Carlo boasts of four first tenors, the others being Giuseppe Agostini, Romeo Bosacchi and Luciano Rosini, all of whom were with the organization last season. Signor Paolo Galazzi, baritone, and his talented wife, Ada Galazzi, both from the Carlo Felice, Florence, Italy, are newcomers in the San Carlo forces.



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Music to Be Discussed at Meeting Here

MUCH interest is being displayed in a community music conference to be held at the public library in room A, Thursday, January 29, at 8 o'clock, under the auspices of community service in cooperation with the Library association. It is for the promotion of community music, and everyone interested in this most vital feature of community life is urged to attend the conference.

As a result of the meeting, Walter Jenkins, community song leader, expects to organize song leaders and amateur orchestra leaders' classes.

Columbia records offer an unusually large and varied list of selections this month. There are opera arias, a folk song, popular songs and hymns by grand opera and concert stars, two negro "spirituals," a hymn by a famous boys' choir, piano, violin and xylophone solos, orchestra and band selections, a cornet duet, many popular songs by well known singers, and nearly a dozen dance records.

Riccardo Stracciari sings that lovely, well known Neapolitan folk-song, "Santa Lucia," which seems to give you the very scent as well as the sound of Italy; and Maria Barrientos sings that surpassingly sweet coloratura aria, "Io Son Titania" from Thomas' "Mignon." Louise Graveure, baritone soloist, gives the full sentiment of his two selections, "Absent" and "When You Come Home." Oscar Seagle, also a baritone, who has been singing for gassed American soldiers at his Adirondack estate this summer, sings two hymns, "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me," in which he is accompanied by the Columbia Stellar quartet, and "Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown?" as a solo. Seagle's singing of hymns is great and sincere.

The Monday Musical club, through its public school committee, Mrs. J. R. Hollister, chairman, is presenting two important subjects to the mothers of students of Portland—those of "High School Credits for Music Study"—putting the study of music on a par with literature and fine arts, and the "Value and Necessity of Musical Education," bringing the thought home that the study of music is no longer considered a luxury, a special accomplishment, but a real necessity to the all-around education of every boy and girl.

The String Ensemble orchestra of the Monday Musical club, Mrs. E. T. Knight, director, has announced its first local concert of the season, to be given at the Piedmont church, Friday evening, January 30, with Mrs. Robert Clark as soloist. The orchestra will feature Miss Margaret Laughton, flutist, accompanied by Mrs. Alice Johnson. Great interest is being shown in this concert and the demand for tickets is large.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of managers of the Monday Musical club was held at the studio, 148 Thirteenth street, Monday, January 19. Fred Newton of the Ad club appeared before the board in behalf of the Alcazar Theatre company, asking the support of the club. The club responded by engaging a block of 50 seats for line parties each Wednesday matinee.

The Monday Musical club chorus, Mrs. Rose Courson Reed, director, Mrs. A. W. Claxon, chairman, will appear with Lucien E. Becker at the popular concert in The Auditorium, Sunday, February 8.

The social committee of the Monday Musical club, Mrs. Fred A. Krebs, chairman, is planning a colonial valentine party for February 14, at the studio, 148 Thirteenth street. Invitations for this event will soon be issued.

Paul Petri gave the first concert of the season on Wednesday evening, January 7, with The Dances Choral society in that city. Mrs. Jane Burns Albert, soprano, and Dom Zan, baritone, both of Portland, were assisting soloists. The Dances Choral society is made up of enthusiasts, who respond with great skill to every demand of Mr. Petri's baton. The tone quality of the chorus was always good, its attacks invariably clean and crisp, and much fine nuancing was given. The Dances Choral society is now considered an asset to that city, and the Chamber of Commerce will back its concert hereafter, assuring future success.

The officers of the Enna amateurs for the ensuing year are: Miss Inez Fairchild, president; Miss Helen Pfaff, vice president; Harry Richards, secretary. The officers of the Enna juniors for the year are: Katherine Edwards, president; Helen Louise Crosby, vice president; Helen Colton, secretary.

The La Grande Community chorus, composed of about 40 voices, gave the concert, "Ruth," Thursday evening, in the Arcade theatre. The chorus has been practicing for the past several months, under the direction of Prof. L. D. Edwards, well known musical instructor of La Grande. Taking the leading roles were Mrs. R. J. Cotner, Mrs. T. R. Maxwell and Paul Knaut.

VINCENTE BALLESTER, baritone, one of the new principals of the San Carlo Grand Opera company.



DOLORES L. CULLEN, violinist, who spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Cullen, 470 Main street. She is leaving for California and is making a tour on the Hippodrome circuit.



Julia Claussen Is Proclaimed To Play Here Great Artist On Wednesday

AFTER the first recital upon her return to America last November from a triumphant concert tour in Europe, Madame Julia Claussen, mezzo-soprano of the Metropolitan Opera company, was accorded the highest of honors by the critics, who proclaimed her one of the world's greatest artists. It was in Baltimore, at the Peabody conservatory, that the prima donna was presented, and this is what the critic of the Baltimore Sun wrote:

"An unusually interesting program of songs was presented by Julia Claussen, the distinguished mezzo-soprano, whose fine work in opera here is still one of Baltimore's happiest memories. Mme. Claussen is indeed a great artist. She senses with a rare instinct the interior significance of the lyrics in letters of each number with an exquisite faithfulness. She has a superb voice of wide range and great warmth and beauty of tone, and as she pirouettes always with admirable taste and sings with so much style and sympathy, she made a very deep impression on a large and enthusiastic audience. We hear too few artists of this calibre."

Madame Claussen will be soloist at the annual concert to be given by the Columbia male chorus, Charles Swenson, conductor, at The Auditorium, Tuesday night, February 3.

Emil Enna will present the following members of the Enna amateurs in a piano recital at the Crystal room of the Benson hotel on February 6. Misses Bernice Simmons, Gertrude Lakefield, Beatrice Hermansen, Mrs. Mabel Ryder Williams and Harry Richards, Miss Clara Cookley, soprano, will assist on the program. Admission will be by cards only, which can be obtained from members of the club.

The Vancouver Music club chorus has chosen February 5 as the date of its next concert in Vancouver, Wash. The chorus, which is under the direction of John Jewell, is doing exceptionally good work this season and will sing an interesting program. These concerts are the musical event of the year in that city and are always well attended.

Mrs. Benjamin Williams has come to Portland from Eugene to continue her advanced work under John Claire Monteth, and will spend the remainder of this season here. Mrs. Williams possesses a brilliant soprano voice and her singing is charming and vivacious. She plans to take up professional concert work next summer.

Last night terminated the three-day midwinter program offered by the Schumann society. The three piano numbers (12 hands), Peramors, music by Rubinstein, and "Festival March" by Wagner, were highly dramatic. Marion Wheeler's artistic rendition of Gottschalk's "Tremolo" deserves recognition. The following took part: Piano, Lilla Jewell, Mary Stevens Mastin, Edith Barber, Thora Bruce, Miss Sylvia Peacher, Messrs. Virgil Edwin Isham, Roy Marion Wheeler; voice, Theodore Hanson, theorist, violin, Lester Pander; reader, Gertrude Earl.

The following musical program will be given at a benefit and party of the Women of Reed for the women's building at the University of Oregon, on Friday, January 30: Chamade trio, Mylene Fraker Stites, Mrs. Edgar Allen Censmore, Mrs. Miles Delevin Warren, accompanied by Gladys Morgan Farmer; harp solo, Mrs. Carvel Sullivan Power.

The Calbreath studio students will present an interesting program at its January "Musical Soiree," on Saturday, December 31.

Apollo Club's Second Concert Is Announced

THE second annual concert of the Apollo club's present season will be given on Thursday evening, February 5, at The Auditorium. As soloist with the club, W. J. Stevenson, basso, will contribute numbers and as he is a comparatively recent arrival in Portland his appearance will be of interest.

As usual, William H. Boyer will conduct, while the accompanists will be supplied by Edgar E. Coulson, William C. McCulloch and Ralph W. Hoyt.

The club's part of the program will be fully up to usual standard, it is promised, and will include several novelties new to Portland. Among others may be mentioned "Widdicombe Fair," a West of England folk song of dro pastoral humor; "Captain, My Captain" (Eohammon), a remarkable setting of Walt Whitman's poem; "Hunting Song" (Bullard), a stirring hunting song; "Benedictus" Stream, an excellent arrangement of Moore's poem; "Marianetta" (Meyer-Helmund), a piquant and catchy lighter number, besides "Spanish Serenade" (Bizet); "Swing Along" (Cooke).

The Ruth St. Denis concert dancers will be presented by Laurence A. Lambert in The Auditorium on Friday, February 6. They are nine charming girls devoting their time and interest to the pursuit of a fine art which not only gives them an opportunity for expression of beauty but gives them strong fine bodies and active minds.

With the attraction comes Ellis Rhodes, dramatic tenor, who for two years served his country overseas in Italy as leader of war camp community singing. Mr. Rhodes is well known as one of the prominent Los Angeles tenors.

Miss Pauline Lawrence, the young pianist who accompanies the dancers, was chosen for the tour because of her familiarity with Miss St. Denis' methods as well as her efficiency as an expert pianist. It is stated in the announcements.

Miss Genevieve Clancy, young Portland vocalist, was honored recently when she was initiated into the Mu Phi Epsilon national honorary musical fraternity. Miss Clancy is a popular member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and the women's glee club at the University of Oregon. She formerly attended St. Mary Academy and was for the past two years soprano soloist at St. Mary's cathedral.

The Monday Musical club chorus, under the direction of Rose Courson Reed, will give two numbers at the Sunday Auditorium concert, February 8. The following numbers will be given: "Evening Prayer in Brittany" (Chaminade); "Into the Woods" (Sellers); "Spinning Song" (Wagner); and "Swing Along" (Cooke). Mrs. Florence Jackson Toney will be the accompanist.

Two singers who have contributed greatly to the success of the fine programs given each Sunday at Central Presbyterian church are Mrs. Lenora Benninghoff and George M. Carver. Benninghoff has a contralto voice of a velvety quality. Mr. Carver's voice is a dramatic baritone, with a legato which makes him a valuable church singer.

The Monday Musical club, junior program department, Saturday, January 31, at 3 o'clock, at 148 Thirteenth street will be furnished partly by the Webber Juvenile String Quintet. Other numbers will be: Piano solo, Francis Peck;

duet, Lolita and Eleanor Walsh; songs, Genn Howell; piano solo, Genn Howell; musical history, Ruby Young and Bertha Klusnes; current events, Mrs. Emma Welch Landry, director.

Boletta Frey, dramatic soprano, sang at the Macabees' meeting Thursday evening, in the W. O. W. hall, with much success.

Reed College

Distribution of \$2799 at Reed college January 13 brought smiles to the faces of 45 Reed ex-service men. This was the first installment of \$9000 which will be paid Reed soldier students for the year 1919-20 as Oregon's tribute to its fighting men who desire higher education. Of the \$2799, for the months of September, October and November, \$2155 was returned to Reed college as tuition fees and board and room money, but a surplus of \$644 was handed out in cash. Freshmen scored highest in the government bonus with 34 men eligible for the aid, and the seniors next with 10 ex-soldiers.

Discussion of the Des Moines convention was uppermost at Reed with a general assembly January 12 at which Reed's six delegates spoke, and three section meetings in which special phases of foreign missionary work were presented. Considerable interest has been manifest in the convention message.

Reed's attitude on the peace treaty, with 89 students and faculty declaring for immediate ratification of the pact without reservation, and 55 advocating immediate ratification with such reservations as they would specify, and smaller numbers voting for the senate and Lodge reservations and still fewer for no treaty ratification.

The conclusion of the interclass basketball tournament gave Reed seniors their fourth straight championship. They began winning the basketball banner their freshman year and in four years of games they lost but one, last year. Freshmen hoppers threatened the senior supremacy in January 14th's fast game, but contented themselves with second place. The juniors ended third, and the sophomores brought up the rear. Outside games will soon be in order, and a creditable season is expected. Reed was fortunate in hearing two of Portland's noted visitors last week. Tom Skellyhill, soldier and poet, now on the lecture platform, addressed a Reed audience Monday afternoon, and Thursday morning Hugh Walpole, brilliant English novelist, spoke at assembly on "Russian Vignettes." Both men were thoroughly appreciated.

Dr. Hun Clark's announcement that Reed will soon be the scene of mental tests has met various responses. Reed men who scored high in army psychological tests are eager to distinguish themselves, while freshmen and others who are not sure of their mental ability are worried. Dr. Clark got the mental test idea at the American Psychological convention held in Massachusetts during the holidays.

According to the college chapel committee, composed of Miss Florence Reed, Professors H. B. Egan and N. P. Coleman, a student club will be added to the Sunday vesper program. The decision followed a conference with the student religious affairs committee.

Reed's week-end will be added to the Reed calendar, according to action taken by the student council last week. The event, as outlined by Paul W. Reed, president, will include a track meet, water carnival, drama club play and the annual junior prom.

Next week ends the first semester at Reed, when three hour examinations will be given every morning and afternoon. Registration for the new semester will be held the following Monday.

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